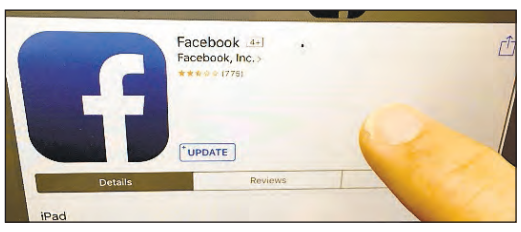
Sports: Dubs' new home coming right along. C1

Sports: Giants trade left-hander Matt Moore to Rangers. C1

Business: Facebook admits social media can be bad at times. C8



Nation: Trump not happy with handling of emails. A3

The newspaper of Silicon Valley

The Mercury News

BayArea NewsGroup 111 Volume 167, issue 180 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017 24/7 COVERAGE: MERCURYNEWS.COM » $1.50

SOUND THE CORNET!

KETTLE CALL

Virtually full employment leaves the Salvation Army scrambling for bell ringers — volunteer and minimum wage — in South and East Bay

ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salvation Army member Daniel Grant plays the cornet at a kettle station outside of a Kmart in Concord.

By Sam Richards
srichards@bayareanewsgroup.com

WALNUT CREEK » A booming economy may mean virtually full employment in the Bay Area, but it has sounded alarm bells for the Salvation Army, which has had trouble finding enough volunteers and paid workers to staff red kettles this holiday season.

Kettle drives in Contra Costa, Alameda and Santa Clara counties have been unable to staff one-third to one-half of the commercial and public places at which they have permission to set up a kettle. That means fewer donations to fund Salvation Army programs, including homeless shelters, food and utility payment assistance, pastoral counseling, summer camp, Angel Tree and Adopt-a-Family programs, and other services.

Kettle donations comprise about a third of the Salvation Army's annual operating budget, said Maj. James Lloyd, Alameda County's co-coordinator. The Red Shield Campaign appeal drive and regular large-scale donors each provide a third, as well.

Lt. Ray Jimenez, kettle coordinator for Salvation Army Santa Clara, said, "We're concerned that some programs may not be possible for the upcoming summer. That is a scare right now."

Ringer Margaret Gilbert is actively encouraging people she knows who don't have jobs to pick up the bell. She knows the Salvation Army needs volunteers, probably more than they need the Salvation Army.

KETTLES » PAGE 6

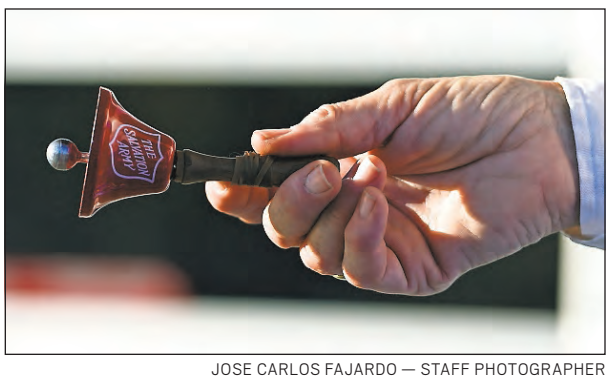
"We're concerned that some programs may not be possible for the upcoming summer. That is a scare right now."

— Lt. Ray Jimenez, kettle coordinator for Salvation Army Santa Clara

JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salvation Army bell ringer Sharyn Fernandez greets customers in front of a Safeway in Walnut Creek.

Online extra: For all the holiday news, photos and videos from around the region, visit **MERCURYNEWS.COM**



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Salvation Army, due to a lack of bell ringers, is unable to staff stations at some East and South Bay sites.

A WIN FOR TRUMP?

GOP: Tax plan has the votes

Late changes sway two Senate holdouts on proposal critics say favors corporations, adds debt

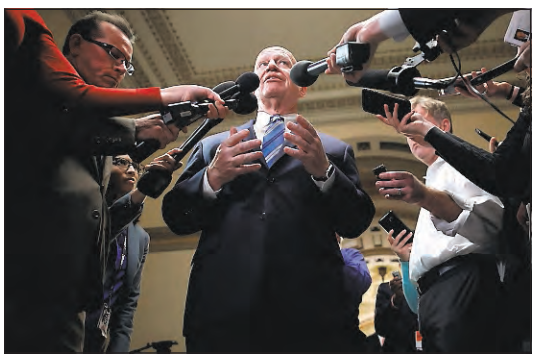
By Damian Paletta, Erica Werner, Jeff Stein and Mike DeBonis
Washington Post

WASHINGTON » Congressional Republicans secured enough support Friday afternoon to pass their massive tax plan into law after two critical holdouts, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., signaled they would vote for it.

Rubio emerged as a final challenge in a complicated political puzzle that the White House and GOP leaders have been assembling for the past two months. His decision to vote for the package came after a standoff with Republican leaders that led to a last-minute expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

Corker's support was unexpected, as he had voted against the measure two weeks ago and none of his demands about deficit reduction had been met. But he said in a statement that he believed the bill was a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" that, combined with changes to immigration and trade policy, would help the economy.

TAXES » PAGE 6



WIN MCNAMEE — GETTY IMAGES

On Friday, House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, discusses the Republican tax reform bill, which could see final votes next week.

TAX HACK

Paying property levy early could save you money

Some could benefit by ponying up now if cut to deduction becomes law

By Marisa Kendall
mkendall@bayareanewsgroup.com

As the GOP tax bill sped toward victory Friday, word spread about a tax plan "life hack" that could save Bay Area residents thousands of dollars if done quickly.

The move is simple: Submit your upcoming property tax payment before the end of the year, instead of waiting until the due date, and you may get a bigger deduction than you will after the tax overhaul goes into effect in 2018.

That idea became especially relevant after the tax plan got support Friday from two Republican leaders who had been on the fence — Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, and Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tennessee — giving the GOP the votes it needs.

Submitting an early property tax payment may not benefit everyone, said Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone, but it's an option worth considering.

PROPERTY » PAGE 6

COMPANY EYEING SILICON VALLEY

Amazon plans South Bay campus

Tech giant has leased four Sunnyvale buildings for two of its subsidiaries

By George Avalos
gavalos@bayareanewsgroup.com

SUNNYVALE » Amazon has begun to assemble a mega-campus in Sunnyvale next to the eastern edges of Moffett Field for two of the online commerce giant's cutting-edge subsidiaries, leasing enough offices to accommodate 5,000 or more workers.

The Seattle-based tech giant has leased a minimum of four Sunnyvale office buildings just east of Moffett Field, according to Santa Clara County public records, real estate listings and the new organization's on-site research.

The deals are the latest in a string of leases Amazon has struck this year as the company scoops up space in Silicon Valley from East Palo Alto to downtown San Jose. The company has a presence in other metro areas — mostly smaller than its growing valley foothold — and has recently an-

AMAZON » PAGE 6

GEORGE AVALOS — STAFF

This building under construction, on the eastern edges of Moffett Field, has been leased to Amazon.

Onine extra: For the latest news on Amazon and all things tech, please visit us at **MERCURYNEWS.COM**

NEWS ON YOUR PHONE
Download the Mercury News mobile app for iPhone or Android.

INDEX

Business C8
Classified CA6
Comics/TV B8
Letters A7
Lottery A2
Movies B7
Obituaries B4
Puzzles B4, C7

WEATHER
H: 62-64 **L:** 42-45
Full report on **B10**

digitalfirst MEDIA
Subscribe: MercuryNews.com
© Mercury News 2017